

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NORTH DAKOTA ALMANAC FEATURED IN STATE'S NEW BLUE BOOK

Bismarck, N.D. - During what seven-month period did North Dakota have four governors? What is the state's largest county in square miles? What percentage of their gross income do North Dakota consumers spend on food? How many words are in the North Dakota Constitution?

The answers to these questions are part of the North Dakota Almanac, the feature chapter of the *2001-2003 North Dakota Blue Book*, which was unveiled at a ceremony in the North Dakota State Capitol today.

During the ceremony, Secretary of State Al Jaeger presented the first 2001-2003 Blue Book to Governor John Hoeven's office. He also recognized more than 70 volunteers across the state who have contributed to the book.

Jaeger says the North Dakota Almanac feature chapter recognizes the role statistics, lists, facts, and rankings play in telling the story of North Dakota. "State librarians shared with us some of the most frequently asked questions they received about North Dakota," he says. "We compiled them along with the information we present in every Blue Book, such as the state's symbols and official awards."

The chapter also presents a biography and picture of every North Dakota governor, as well as information about agriculture, state monuments, health statistics, news events, and weather.

This 28th edition of the North Dakota Blue Book has 12 chapters and more than 600 pages, including chapters on tribal and state relationships and economic development. Photo features include seasonal pictures of the State Capitol and 16 color photographs of the state's top economic industries.

All three branches of state government are represented with photographs and biographies of current office holders, as are all recipients of the Rough Rider Hall of Fame. The chapter on elections includes a 2002 voter's guide and elections calendar.

The information in this Blue Book complements the 1989, 1995, 1997 and 1999 editions, which Jaeger says presents a comprehensive overview and awareness of the state. "This is a meaningful record of North Dakota's history and events," he says. "It belongs in the collection of every home, school, public library and office in the state."

The 2001-2003 North Dakota Blue Book is available for \$15 through the North Dakota Heritage Center Museum Store, 612 E. Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505. Mail orders should include \$15 for the book, plus sales tax and \$2.50 for postage and handling for one book and \$1 for each additional book. North Dakota residents should include state sales tax. Credit card orders can be made by calling 701-328-2666.

A bundle of the 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 North Dakota Blue Books is available for \$30, or the older editions are available for \$7.50 each with the same sales tax and postage and handling charge in effect for the 2001 edition.